Pakistan's prepaaiton for a nuclear war against India

2278. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is preparing for a nuclear war against India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have come across media reports of a statement attributed to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan at Tashkent on January 8, 1994 to the effect that unless Kashmir issue is resolved under the UN resolutions, there is a danger of a nuclear war.

(b) and (c) The Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman subsequently clarified that the the Foreign Minister of Pakistan only referred to the danger of another war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir issue.

Government regard such posturing and rhetoric adopted by Pakistan as a manifestation of Pakistan's negative approach. Government are aware of Pakistan's clandestine and weapons-oriented unclear programme and constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Protection of Rights of Sikhs in India

2279. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state-

(a) whether it is a fact that US President has made a statement in a letter addressed to a US Congressman that peaceful solution is required to protect rights of Sikhs;

(b) if so, whether India has taken up the matter with the US Administration;

(c) if so, what was the US reaction; and

(d) whether this is likely to affect the Indo-US relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In a meeting with Ambassador Ray, US Assistant Secretary Robin Raphel stated that the US has never accepted the concept of Khalistan and have not and will not challenge the territorial integrity of India. The US believes that the situation in Punjab has dramatically improved in the last year and a half.

(d) While maintaining India's interests in all circumstances, Government continue to promote friendly, mutually cooperative and productive relations with all countries, including the USA.

Pressure tactics by U.S.A.

2280. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various pressure tactics being adopted by the United State recently, and

(b) What has been India's response so far to the various statements of U.S. officials on Jammu and Kashmir and other issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFIARS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Differences of approach between India and the USA in a number of areas have engaged Government's attention.

(b) Government of India have reiterated their commitment to restore normalcy and protect and promote the human rights of their innocent and law abiding citizens

in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and hope that the United Sates Administration will recognise that Pakistan sponsored terrorism is the major obsacle in restoring peace and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir. Government have underlined its commitment to uphold human rights as part of India's heritage and as enshrined in the Constitution and our laws. Goverment have reiterated that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an inallienable and integral part of the Indian Republic.

On Jammu and Kashmir and all other issues where difference of approach exists, Government while maintaining India's interests in all circumstances, will try to promote greater understanding and appreciation of our national position.

USA's intending to attack nuclear installations

2281. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news appearing in the Pioneer' dated the 6th February, 1994 to the effect that the US intends to attack the nuclear installations in other countries; and

(b) if so, what is the response of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFIARS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government monitor all developments having a beaing on India's security, on a continuing basis, and take adequate measures to safeguard the national interest.

Economic Treaty between India and Germany

2282. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any economic treaty was signed between India and Germany during 1991; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Indo-German Agreement for Financial cooperation for 1991 was signed in Bonn on September 6, 1991. The Agreement provides for German financial assistance amounting to DM 395 million in 1991.

Creation of Regional Centre for Arbitration of Commercial Disputes

2283 SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister to EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India had taken initiative for creation of Regional Centre for Arbitration of Commercial Disputes in SAARC Conference held in Dhaka;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of SAARC members in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Supply of Arms to Pakistan by U.S.

2284: PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Mill the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent statement by the U. S. Senator Mr. Larry Pressler that the present U. S. Administation wants to resume arms supply to Pakistan ignoring Pessler Amendment;